

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of: )  
                                )  
                                Mark Epstein         )      Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
                                )  
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned         )      Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
                                )  
Filed:    December 4, 2001         )  
                                )  
For:    A METHOD AND APPARATUS)  
                                FOR MANAGING A NETWORK)

US Patent and Trademark Office  
Box Patent Application  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application by inserting the following after the title.

**PRIORITY:**

--The present patent application claims priority to the corresponding provisional patent application serial no. 60/261,487, titled, "Method And Apparatus For Managing a Network" filed on January 12, 2001.--

REMARKS

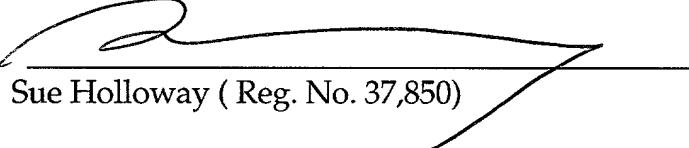
Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as presented herein.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: DEC. 4, 2001

  
Sue Holloway (Reg. No. 37,850)

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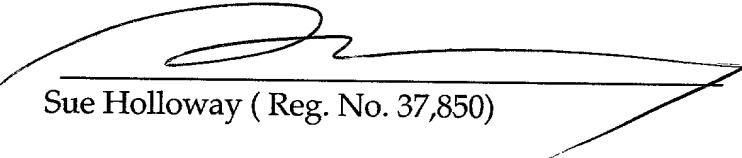
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